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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

HUYNH, SON P

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2623

DATE MAILED: 11/24/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/744,215

Applicant(s)

AGASSE, BERNARD

Examiner

Son P. Huynh

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 03 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 September 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 15 and 31-53 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 15 and 31-53 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on September 8, 2006 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 15, 31-53 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claims 1-14, 16-30 have been canceled.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 15 and 31-53 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knudson et al. (US 6,536,041 B1) in view of Alexander et al. (US 6,177,931 B1).

Regarding Claim 15, Knudson discloses a method for providing a user with options for accessing at least one of a plurality of received channels comprising at least one channel and a service channel of a digital television system (see figures 1-3, 6, 13, 24) comprising the steps of:

generating a service menu for display on a display superimposed over a program transmitted on one of the received channel, the service menu comprising a list of menu items corresponding to a plurality of service available to a user (interpreted as user presses a remote control play key or suitable button (e.g., to make on screen menu selection), the program guide displays the controllable ticker on a display superimposed over a program transmitted one received channel (e.g. channel 4), the controller tickers comprises categories such as major league baseball, national Football league, NHL, news, etc. the user may select from different categories that are available— see include, but not limited to, figures 13, 14a, col. 8, lines 20-26; col. 13, line 49-col. 14, line 67);

generating, upon user selection of one of the listed services from the service menu, at least one subsidiary menu for display on the display superimposed over the program together with only the selected menu item corresponding to the selected one of

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the listed services to provide the user with a plurality of options for accessing at least one of the received channels (interpreted as user selects a particular category, e.g. Major League Baseball, a menu for selected category is generated and displayed superimposed over video for channel 4 together with only selected category, the selected category provides the user with a plurality of option for accessing at least one of the received channel such as user selects a received channel for displaying ORIOLES AT RED SOX, select TV icon 187 for record a program, tune to a program, set a reminder, etc. – see figures 13-14b; col. 13, line 50-col. 14, line 67), wherein the selected menu item is originally displayed in a first location of the display, and wherein upon selection, the selected menu item remains in the first location of the display (interpreted as the selected category, for example, Major League Baseball, is originally displayed in the location of controller ticker 186, and upon user selection of the Major League Baseball category, The MLB remains in the location of the controller ticker 186—figure 13, col. 13, line 50-col. 14, line 67).

Knudson further discloses generating and displaying messages such as a reminder for program (col. 8, lines 31-35; col. 9, lines 40-62). However, Knudson does not specifically disclose interactive message superimposed over the program, wherein the interactive message require a response from the user, and wherein the interactive message changes to the at least one of the received channels based on a positive reply from the user.

Alexander discloses a method wherein user selects an GUIDE icon on the remote control, a Grid Guide is generated and displayed overlay/superimposed over a video television programming (col. 7, lines 18-30). Alexander further discloses generating and displaying at least one interactive message superimposed over the program, wherein the interactive message require a response from the user, and wherein the interactive message changes to the at least one of the received channels based on a positive reply from the user (interpreted as either generating and displaying on screen notification overlay/superimposed over real time video program being displayed, the on screen notification can be used to alert the viewer to any number of possible items of information. For instance, the on screen notification would be to notify the viewer that a program that may be interest will be broadcast on another channel. The EPG then ask if the viewer wants to view the program on the other channel. If the viewer indicates that the viewer wants to watch the program on the other channel, then the EPG will automatically tune to the other channel at the appropriate time – see col. 14, lines 42-col. 15, line 32, or generating and display an icon/message overlay the program being viewed, the viewer selects the icon/message to access web page/information associated with the selected icon/message – see include, but not limited to, col. 18, line 54-col. 19, line 37, col. 32, lines 35-60). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art the time the invention was made to modify Knudson to use the teaching as taught by Alexander in order to improve viewer interaction capabilities with the EPG; improve features to the EPG display and navigation (col. 2, lines 2-21; col. 5, line 55-col. 6, line 62).

Regarding Claim 31, Knudson in view of Alexander discloses a method as discussed in the rejection of claim 15. Knudson further discloses the list of services contained in the service menu (controllable ticker) is varied according to user's preferences (col. 16, lines 40-53). In addition, Alexander discloses the list of services contained in the service Grid guide comprised advertisements is customized according to user profile (col. 30, line 45-col. 33, line 43) alternatively reads on the list of services contained in the service menu is varied according to the subscription rights of the user.

Regarding Claim 32, Knudson in view of Alexander discloses a method as discussed in the rejection of claim 15. Knudson further discloses the list of services contained in the service menu (controllable ticker) is ordered according to the preferences of the user (col. 14, line 28-col. 15, line 14). In addition, Alexander discloses the list of services contained in the service Grid guide comprised advertisements is ordered according to user profile (col. 30, lines 45-67) alternatively reads on the list of services contain in the menu is ordered according to the preferences of the user.

Regarding Claim 33, Knudson in view of Alexander discloses a method as discussed in the rejection of claim 15. The additional limitation of "control signals are received from a remote control handset" is either met by control signals are received from a remote control (e.g. remote control 60 or input device, Knudson, figure 1, col. 7, lines 50-62) or (remote control 26 or input device, see Alexander, figure 2, col. 3, lines 20-35).

Regarding Claim 34, Knudson in view of Alexander discloses a method as discussed in the rejection of claim 33. The additional limitation of “the service menu is generated for display on the display in response to the touch of a single dedicated key on the handset” is read on either Knudson’s disclosure of the screen menu on controller ticker is generated and displayed when user presses a remote control play key or other suitable (e.g. guide button to make an on screen selection) – col. 8, lines 20-22, col. 14, lines 39-44; or Alexander’s disclosure of displaying program guide screen in response to user selection of “Guide” key or “Menu” key on the viewer’s remote control device (col. 7, lines 31-45).

Regarding Claim 35, Knudson in view of Alexander discloses a method as discussed in the rejection of claim 33. The additional limitation of “the display of the list of service contained in the service menu is scrolled in response to command received from navigation keys of the handset” is either read on Knudson’s disclosure (see figure 14b, col. 15, lines 30-54) or Alexander’s disclosure (see col. 15, line 40-col. 16, line 26).

Regarding Claim 36, Knudson in view of Alexander discloses a method as discussed in the rejection of claim 15. Knudson further discloses the service menu is scrolled around a fixed bar displayed on the display (interpreted as scrolling around fixed controller ticker – see include, but not limited to, figure 14b, col. 15, lines 30-54).

Regarding Claim 37, Knudson in view of Alexander discloses a method as discussed in the rejection of claim 36. Knudson further discloses that the fixed bar (e.g. controller ticker) include navigations arrows showing possible directions of movement of the service menu (e.g. Up arrow, down arrow, left arrow, right arrow – figure 13).

Regarding Claim 38, Knudson in view of Alexander discloses a method as discussed in the rejection of claim 15. The additional limitation of “upon user selection one of the option from the subsidiary, a second subsidiary menu is generated for display on the display superimposed over the program together with the selected one of the listed services to provide the user with a plurality of further options for accessing at least one of the received channels” is read on Knudson’s disclosure of upon selection of down arrow from a particular associated item, a “subsidiary menu” of next associated item is generated for display on the displayed superimposed over the video for channel 4 together with the selected category, the “subsidiary menu” of the next associated item provides the user with a plurality of further options for accessing at least one of the received channel such as selection to tune to another item, selection to tune to a channel to watch, to record, to set a reminder, etc. – figures 13-14b, col. 14, lines 1-67).

Regarding Claim 39, Knudson in view of Alexander discloses a method as discussed in the rejection of claim 15. The additional limitation of “the channel displayed on the display is changed in response to the selection of a particular option from a subsidiary menu” is read on either Knudson discloses of user selection of television icon 187 to

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tune to another channel for display program associated with selected channel – figures 13, 24, col. 14, lines 14-27); or Alexander discloses of selected a particular icon associated with category MOVIES to display program associated with the selected icon – see include, but not limited to, figure 8, col. 3, lines 55-67).

Regarding Claim 40, Knudson in view of Alexander discloses a method as discussed in the rejection of claim 39. The additional limitation of “from the received channels a service channel is accessed at a particular display screen within that service channel in dependence on the option chosen within a subsidiary menu” is either interpreted as select a channel (e.g. channel associated with icon 187) from the received channels using the “subsidiary menu”, the selected channel is accessed – see Knudson - figures 13, 24, col. 14, lines 1-67), or interpreted as select a movie title such as “ON GOLDEN POND” from channels that received movies using “subsidiary menu” MOVIES, and the service channel (i.e. PBS) is accessed at the display screen for MOVIES.

Regarding Claim 41, Knudson in view of Alexander discloses a method as discussed in the rejection of claim 15. Knudson further discloses the menus contain regularly updated information (e.g. updated real time information, update program listings data) received together with the program over which the menu are superimposed – see figures 13, 20-24).

Regarding Claim 42, the limitations of the decoder as claimed correspond to the limitations of the method as claim in claim 15, and are analyzed as discussed with respect to the rejection of claim 15. Wherein the decoder is interpreted as the set top box and television display (see Knudson – figure 1). Knudson also discloses the menu as a controller ticker (figure 13). Thus, interference with the program is minimal. However, Knudson does not discloses control unit is arrange to generate at least one interactive message displayed superimposed over the program, wherein the interactive message require a response from the user, and wherein the interactive message changes to the at least one of the received channels based on a positive reply from the user.

Alexander discloses a decoder (e.g. television receiver) is arranged to generates interactive message displayed superimposed over the program, wherein the interactive message require a response from the user, and wherein the interactive message changes to the at least one of the received channels based on a positive reply from the user (interpreted as either the television receiver generates and display on screen notification overlay/superimposed over real time video program being displayed, the on screen notification can be used to alert the viewer to any number of possible items of information. For instance, the on screen notification would be to notify the viewer that a program that may be interest will be broadcast on another channel. The EPG then ask if the viewer wants to view the program on the other channel. If the viewer indicates that the viewer wants to watch the program on the other channel, then the EPG will automatically tune to the other channel at the appropriate time – see col. 14, lines 42-

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col. 15, line 32, or generating and display an icon/message overlay the program being viewed, the viewer selects the icon/message to access web page/information associated with the selected icon/message – see include, but not limited to, col. 18, line 54-col. 19, line 37, col. 32, lines 35-60). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art the time the invention was made to modify Knudson to use the teaching as taught by Alexander in order to improve viewer interaction capabilities with the EPG; improve features to the EPG display and navigation (col. 2, lines 2-21; col. 5, line 55-col. 6, line 62).

Regarding Claims 43-53, the additional limitations as claimed correspond to the additional limitations of the method as claimed in claims 31-41 respectively, and are analyzed as discussed with respect to the rejection of claims 31-41.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

White et al. (US 5,596,373) discloses method and apparatus for providing program oriented information in a multiple station broadcast system.

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6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Son P. Huynh whose telephone number is 571-272-7295. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 - 6:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christopher S. Kelley can be reached on 571-272-7331. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Son P. Huynh

November 17, 2006

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Son P. Huynh', with a long horizontal line extending from the bottom of the signature.